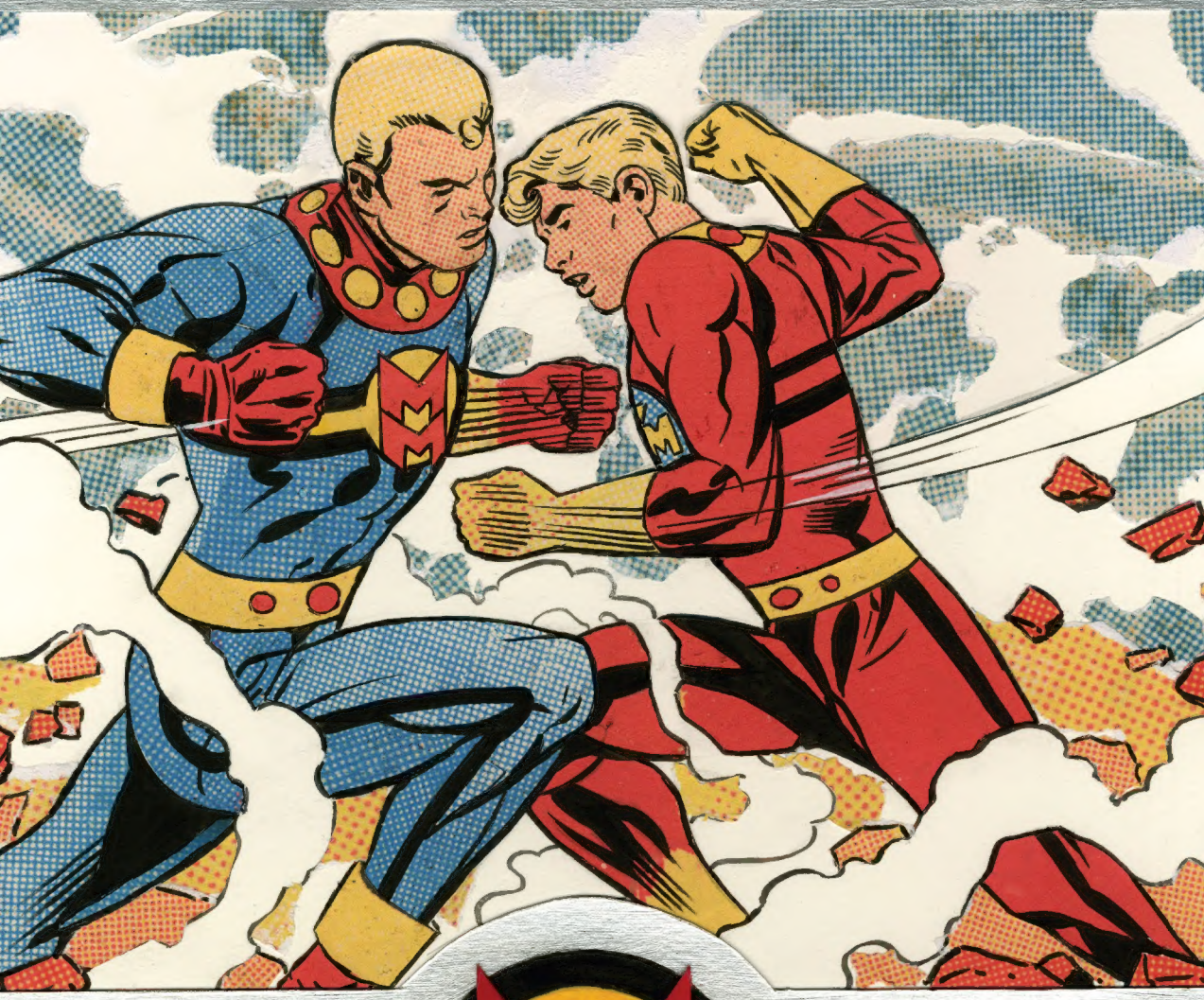
MARVEL



ISSUE #7 | LGY #29

GAIMAN

BELLAIRE

BUCKINGHAM

KLEIN

MIRACLEMAN

THE SILVER AGE

MATURE CONTENT

PARENTAL ADVISORY FOR STRONG LANGUAGE & CONTENT

MARVEL COMICS PROUDLY PRESENTS...

MIRACLEMAN

BOOK FIVE: THE SILVER AGE

"If This Be My Destiny"

Writer: **Neil Gaiman** Co-Writer/Artist: **Mark Buckingham**

Color Art: **Jordie Bellaire** Lettering: **Todd Klein**

By speaking their keywords, Micky Moran, Dickie Dauntless and Johnny Bates transform into the super-powered heroes Miracleman, Young Miracleman and Kid Miracleman. Together, they had countless adventures that turned out to be implanted dreams. An atomic blast reverted Miracleman back to Micky Moran, who grew up without knowledge of his alter ego. Kid Miracleman escaped in secret. Young Miracleman was killed.

Years later, Moran's memory returned. He uncovered the truth and discovered that Johnny Bates had survived, corrupted by his superhuman power. Bates attacked London, slaughtering thousands, and only with the aid of the alien Qys and Warpsmiths was Miracleman able to stop him. Miracleman and his Pantheon then remade civilization, creating a Golden Age free of war, famine and poverty. They also brought Young Miracleman back to life.

Young Miracleman is traumatized by the strange world he wakes up in. His mentor reigns as a god alongside a Miraclewoman Dickie has never met. His other best friend became a mass murderer.

Shaken to the core, Dickie set out to discover who he really is. Along the way he met a super-powered woman named Meta-Maid. With her help, Dickie was able to track down the orphanage where he grew up. Upon arriving there, Dickie was overwhelmed by the memories of his upbringing, marred by physical and sexual abuse until he was kidnapped and turned into Young Miracleman. Armed with the truth about who he is, Dickie is finally ready to confront his old mentor.

Cover: **Mark Buckingham**
Variant Cover: **Federico Vicentini & Morry Hollowell**
Variant Cover: **Todd Nauck & Rachelle Rosenberg**

Design: **Jay Bowen**
Assistant Editor: **Kaeden McGahey**
Editor: **Nick Lowe**
Editor in Chief: **C.B. Cebulski**
Production: **Cory Sedlmeier** & **Kat Gregorowicz**
Back Matter: **Cory Sedlmeier**

Miracleman created by **Mick Anglo**

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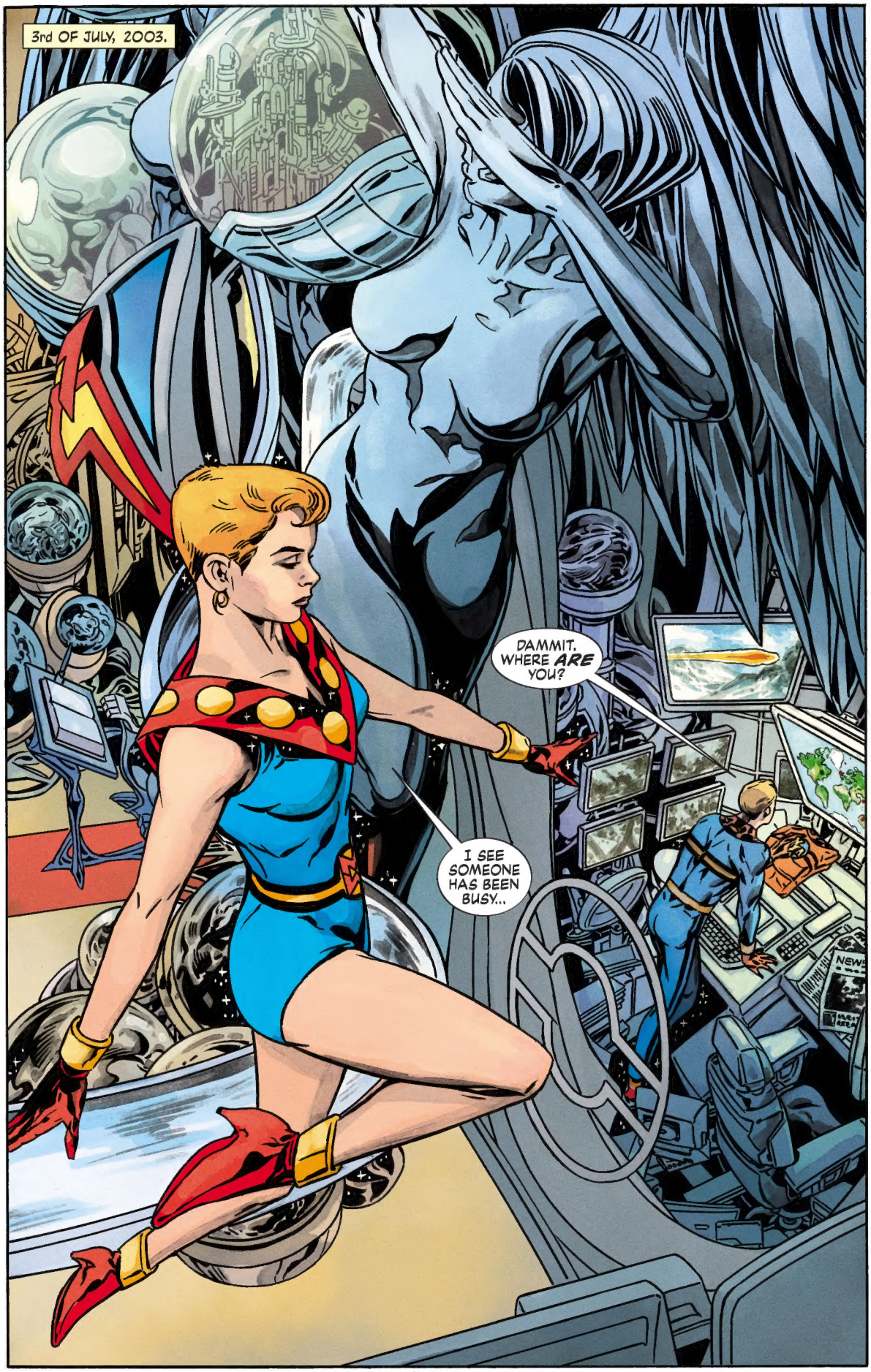

3rd OF JULY, 2003.
DAMMIT, WHERE ARE YOU?
I SEE SOMEONE HAS BEEN BUSY...

WE'RE ALWAYS ONE STEP BEHIND HIM.

STILL NO SIGN OF THE REMARKABLE MR. DAUNTLESS, THEN?

NOT EXACTLY.

WE'VE BEEN LOOKING...

...WE'VE GOT *EVERYBODY* ON IT...

INCLUDING KANA BLUR, I SEE?

HE'S MADE INQUIRIES. IF DICKIE'S OFF-PLANET, HE'S NOT IN THE KNOWN UNIVERSE.

HE VISITED CAXTON IN THE HIMALAYAS.

WE CAUGHT HIS TRAIL IN ENGLAND.

HE CHECKED OUT AN ABANDONED ORPHANAGE.

AND THEN HE VANISHED ONCE AGAIN.

THIS TIME, WITHOUT A TRACE.

I CAN'T HELP BUT FEEL THIS IS MY FAULT--

--OUR FAULT.

WE SCARED YOUNG MIRACLEMAN.

HE'S HURT. HE'S HIDING. HE NEEDS OUR LOVE.

BUT HE'S NOT *ANYWHERE.*

WE NEED TO DISCUSS OUR OPTIONS.

BECAUSE WHEN HE REAPPEARS-- AND I DO NOT DOUBT THAT HE WILL...

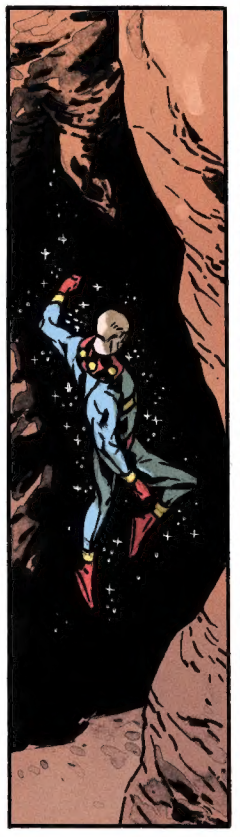
...SHIT...

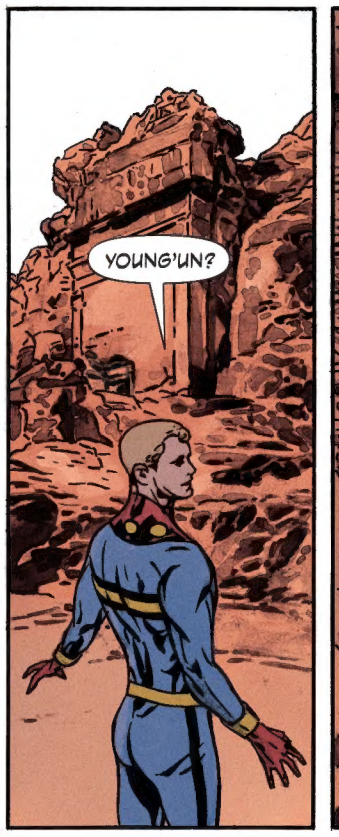
I THINK WE *FOUND* HIM.
MIRACLEMAN! LOOK!
HEY, MM.
HELLO, EVERYBODY.
SORRY TO BE HERE ON YOUR SHOPPING CHANNEL...PORN CHANNEL...
...OR YOUR WHEREVER I AM...
...I'VE TAKEN OVER *EVERYTHING,* AND THIS IS WHY...
MM. WE NEED TO TALK.
I'VE BEEN HAVING A FABULOUS LOOK AROUND YOUR WORLD...AND I HAVE SOME IDEAS...
...AND I'M SURE *YOU* HAVE SOME IDEAS...
...SO...WE SHOULD TALK. ON NEUTRAL TERRITORY.
THIRTY SECONDS FROM NOW. I'LL BE WAITING FOR YOU.
I'LL MEET YOU IN THE ROSE-RED CITY, HALF AS OLD AS TIME...
THE ROSE-RED WHAT?
HE'S QUOTING JOHN WILLIAM BURGON.
I NEED TO FLY TO JORDAN...

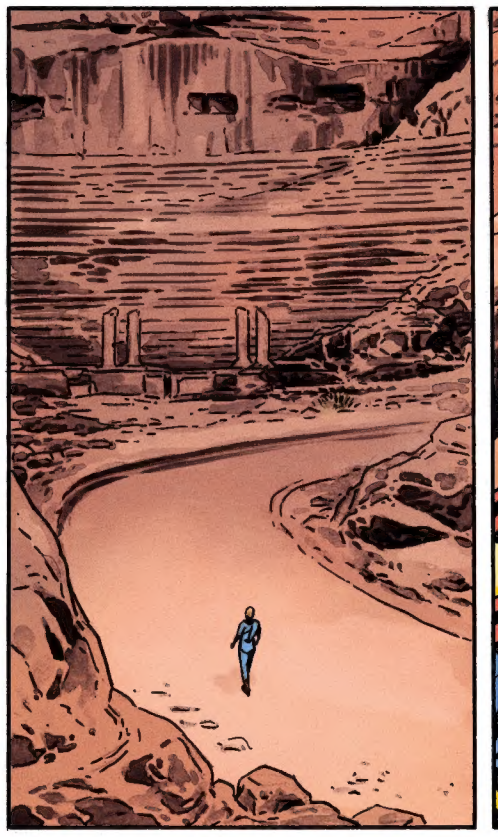
"...HE'S WAITING FOR ME IN PETRA."

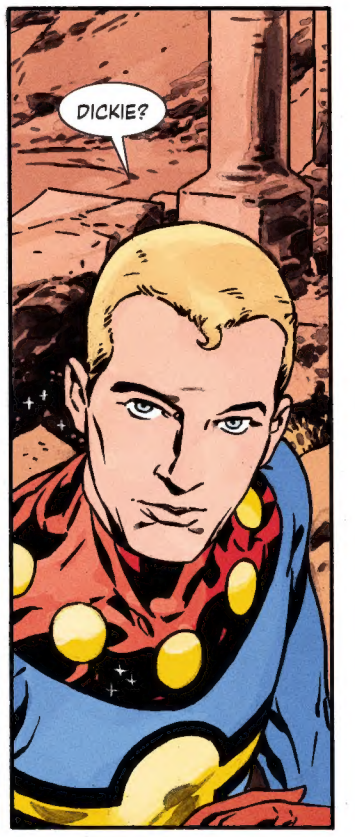
IF THIS BE MY DESTINY...

NEIL GAIMAN writer · MARK BUCKINGHAM co-writer/artist · JORDIE BELLAIRE color artist · TODD KLEIN letterer · KAEDEN McGAHEY assistant editor · NICK LOWE editor









HULLO, MM.

EVERYTHING WE ARE SAYING NOW IS ON EVERY SCREEN IN THE WORLD.

NOT THAT I THINK YOU'RE LIKELY TO MURDER ME...

WHY *WOULD* I...?

YOU WON'T.

BUT... JUST IN CASE YOU *DO*...

...I WANT THE ENTIRE POPULATION OF THE WORLD TO KNOW THAT IT HAPPENED.

HI. BIG FAN. PLEASE DON'T KILL ME EITHER.

OKAY.

SO, MM, YOU HAVE PLANS IN PLACE FOR ME. WHAT ARE THEY?

I'M SORRY?

YOU HAVE LIMITED OPTIONS.

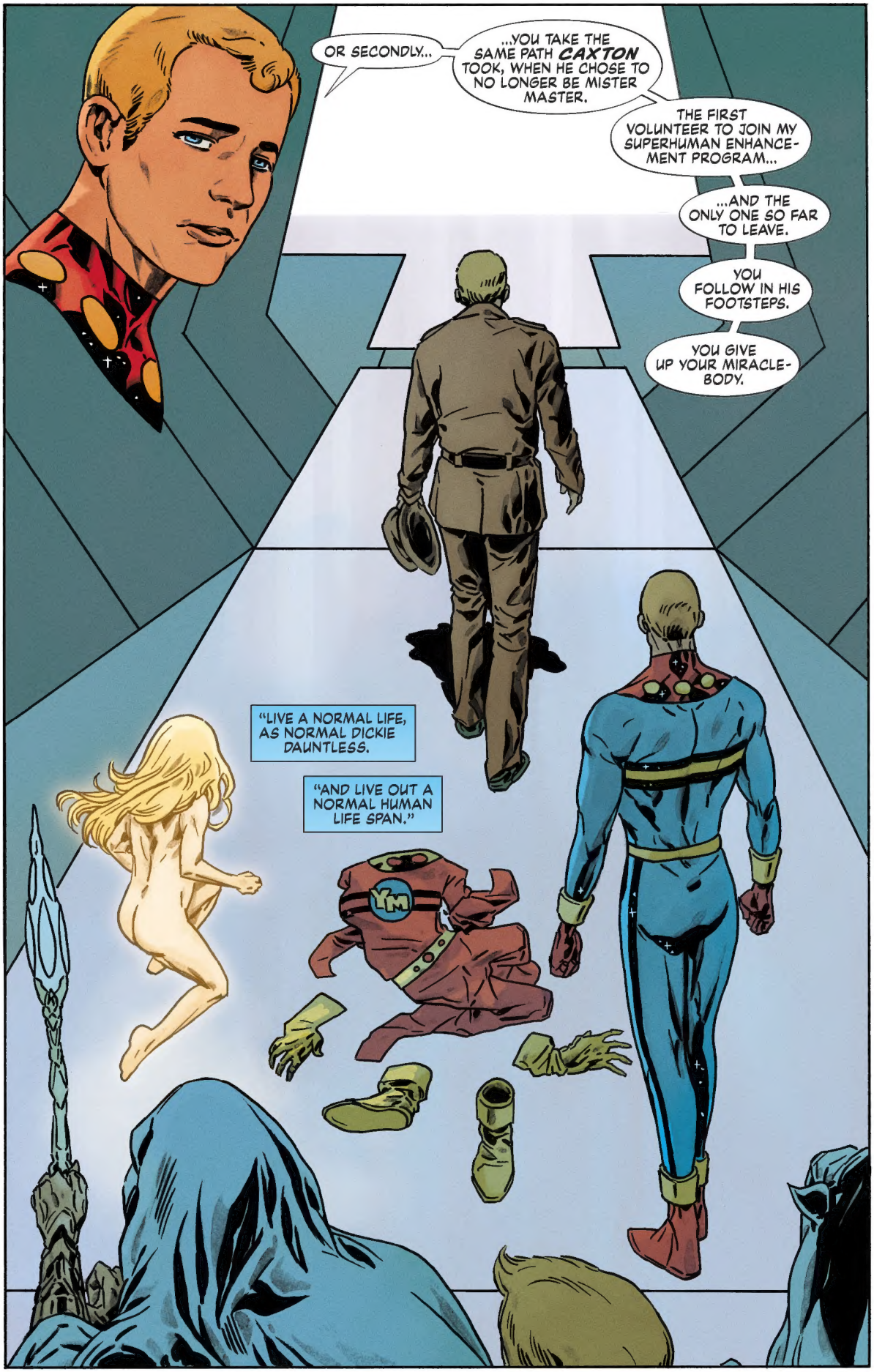
YOU WILL ALREADY HAVE FORMULATED THEM.

TELL THE PEOPLE WHAT THEY ARE.

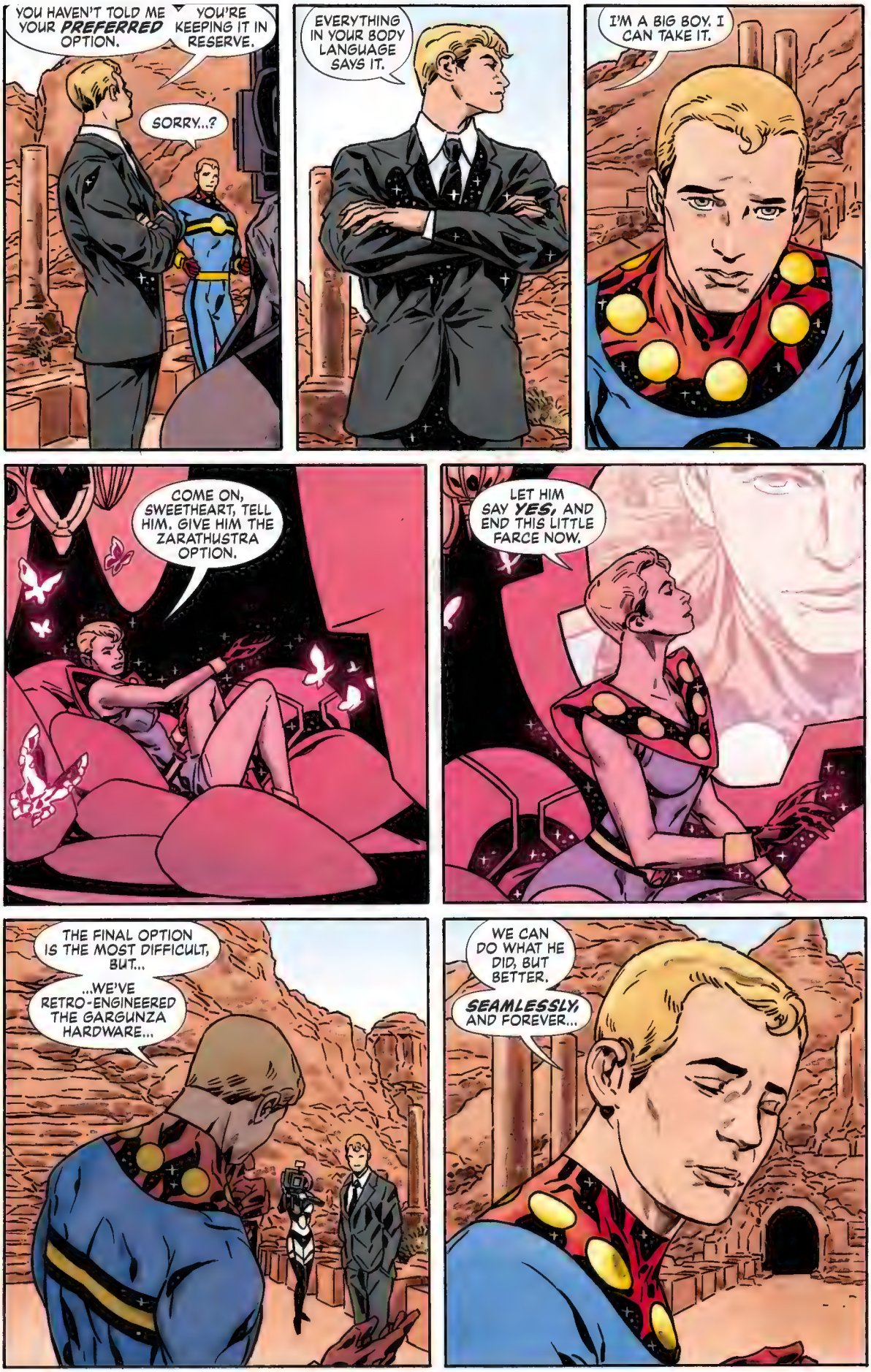
DICKIE...

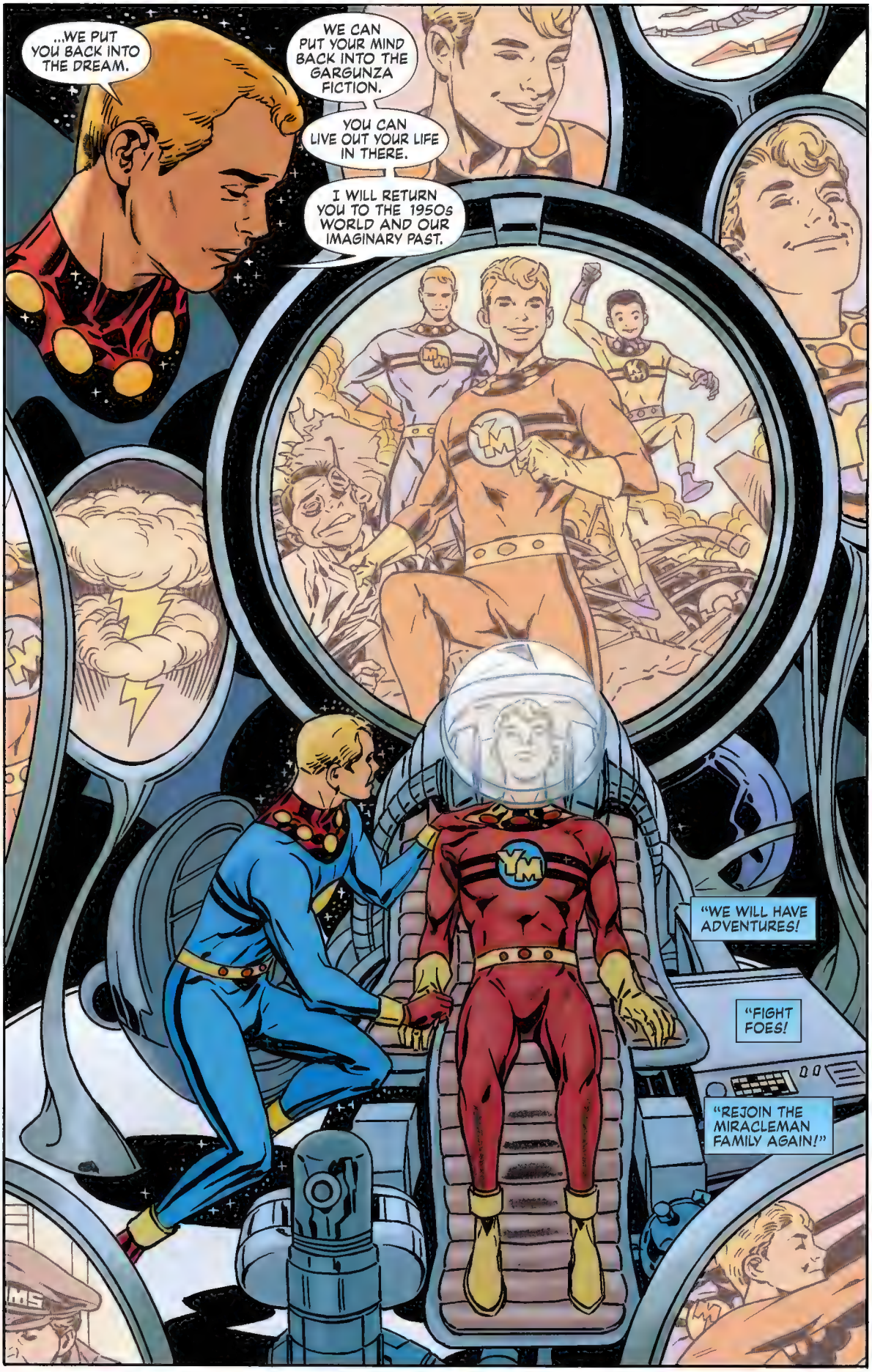
THESE ARE YOUR CHOICES.

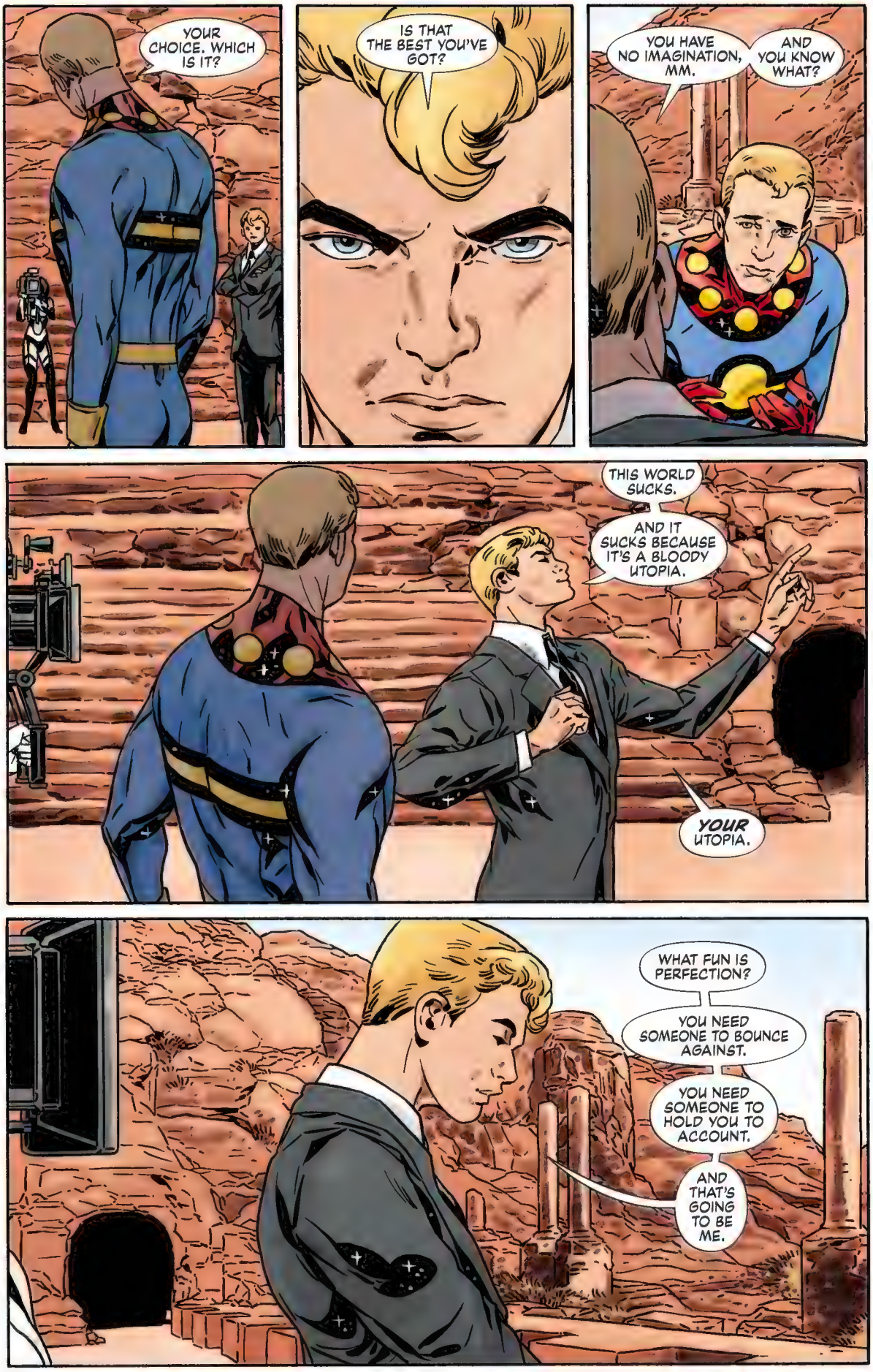
THE FIRST OPTION...
...ACCEPT MY WORLD.
ACCEPT ME.
JOIN US.
"BECOME PART OF MY PANTHEON.
"EMBRACE THE MIRACLE."

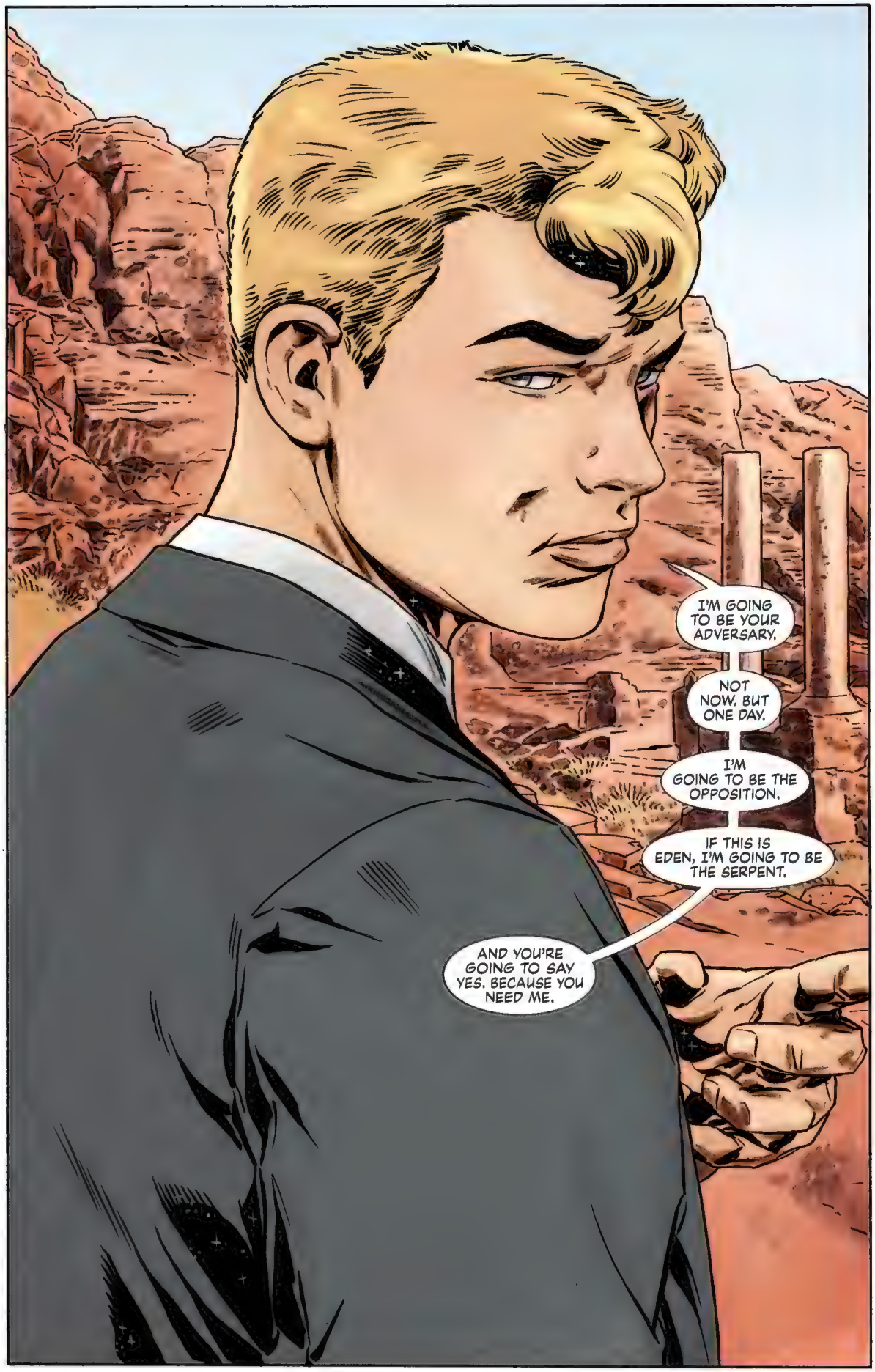

OR SECONDLY...
...YOU TAKE THE SAME PATH CAXTON TOOK, WHEN HE CHOSE TO NO LONGER BE MISTER MASTER.
THE FIRST VOLUNTEER TO JOIN MY SUPERHUMAN ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM...
...AND THE ONLY ONE SO FAR TO LEAVE.
YOU FOLLOW IN HIS FOOTSTEPS.
YOU GIVE UP YOUR MIRACLE-BODY.
"LIVE A NORMAL LIFE, AS NORMAL DICKIE DAUNTLESS.
"AND LIVE OUT A NORMAL HUMAN LIFE SPAN."
YM

OR THIRDLY...
...AS YOU HAVE WARNED THE WORLD ALREADY, ONE WAY OR ANOTHER...
...YOU CHOOSE TO DIE.
"YOU ARE NOT A CREATURE OF THIS PLACE AND TIME. PERHAPS YOU WOULD BE HAPPIER THIS WAY.
"WOULD IT BE MURDER? PERHAPS...
"...BUT IT WOULD ALSO BE A MERCY KILLING."
AZA CHORN
DICKIE DAUNTLESS
YM
YM


YOU HAVEN'T TOLD ME YOUR PREFERRED OPTION.
YOU'RE KEEPING IT IN RESERVE.
SORRY...?
EVERYTHING IN YOUR BODY LANGUAGE SAYS IT.
I'M A BIG BOY. I CAN TAKE IT.
COME ON, SWEETHEART, TELL HIM. GIVE HIM THE ZARATHUSTRA OPTION.
LET HIM SAY YES, AND END THIS LITTLE FARCE NOW.
THE FINAL OPTION IS THE MOST DIFFICULT, BUT...
...WE'VE RETRO-ENGINEERED THE GARGUNZA HARDWARE...
WE CAN DO WHAT HE DID, BUT BETTER.
SEAMLESSLY, AND FOREVER...


...WE PUT YOU BACK INTO THE DREAM.
WE CAN PUT YOUR MIND BACK INTO THE GARGUNZA FICTION.
YOU CAN LIVE OUT YOUR LIFE IN THERE.
I WILL RETURN YOU TO THE 1950s WORLD AND OUR IMAGINARY PAST.
"WE WILL HAVE ADVENTURES!
"FIGHT FOES!
"REJOIN THE MIRACLEMAN FAMILY AGAIN!"

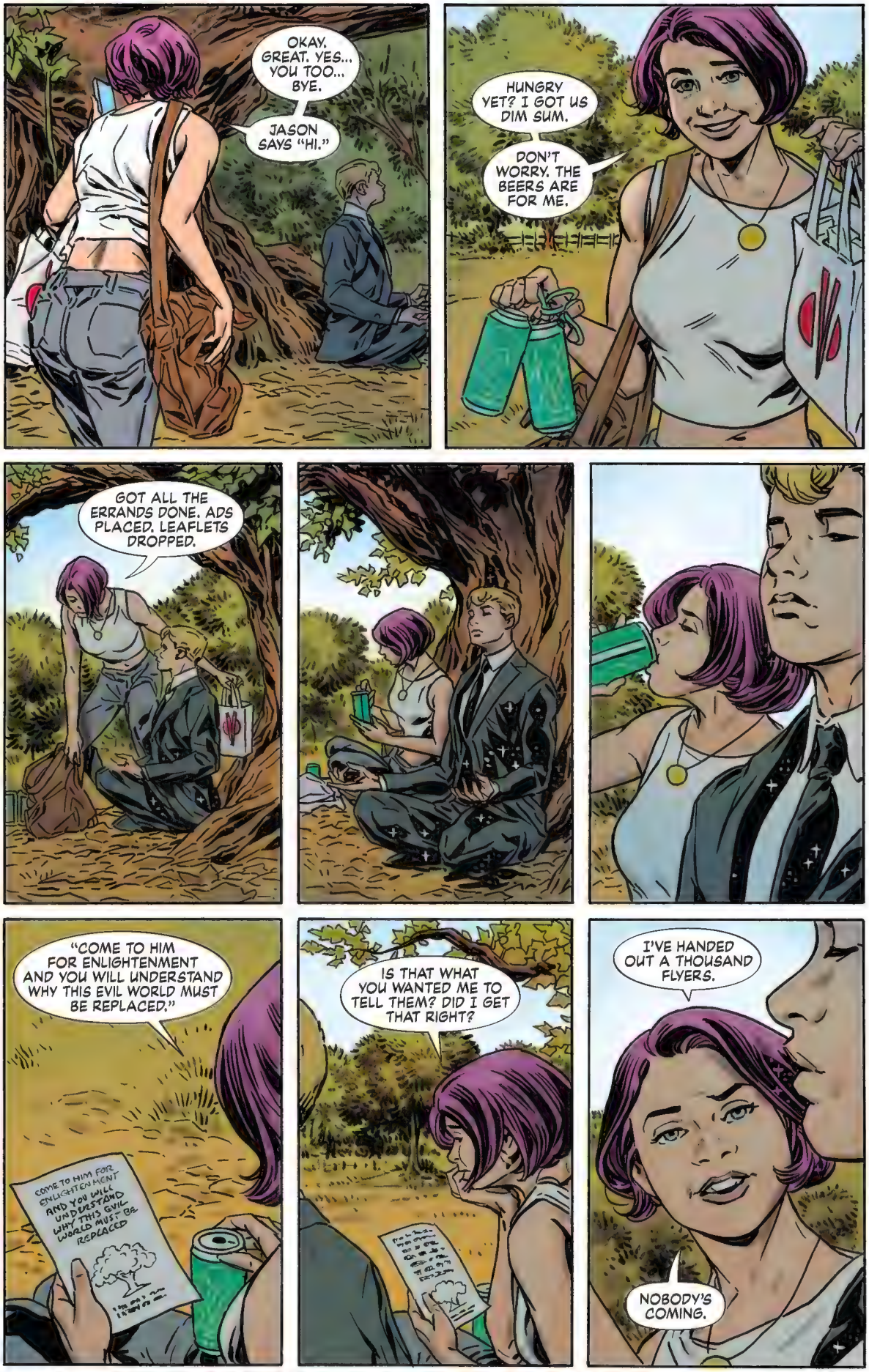

YOUR CHOICE. WHICH IS IT?
IS THAT THE BEST YOU'VE GOT?
YOU HAVE NO IMAGINATION, MM.
AND YOU KNOW WHAT?
THIS WORLD SUCKS.
AND IT SUCKS BECAUSE IT'S A BLOODY UTOPIA.
YOUR UTOPIA.
WHAT FUN IS PERFECTION?
YOU NEED SOMEONE TO BOUNCE AGAINST.
YOU NEED SOMEONE TO HOLD YOU TO ACCOUNT.
AND THAT'S GOING TO BE ME.

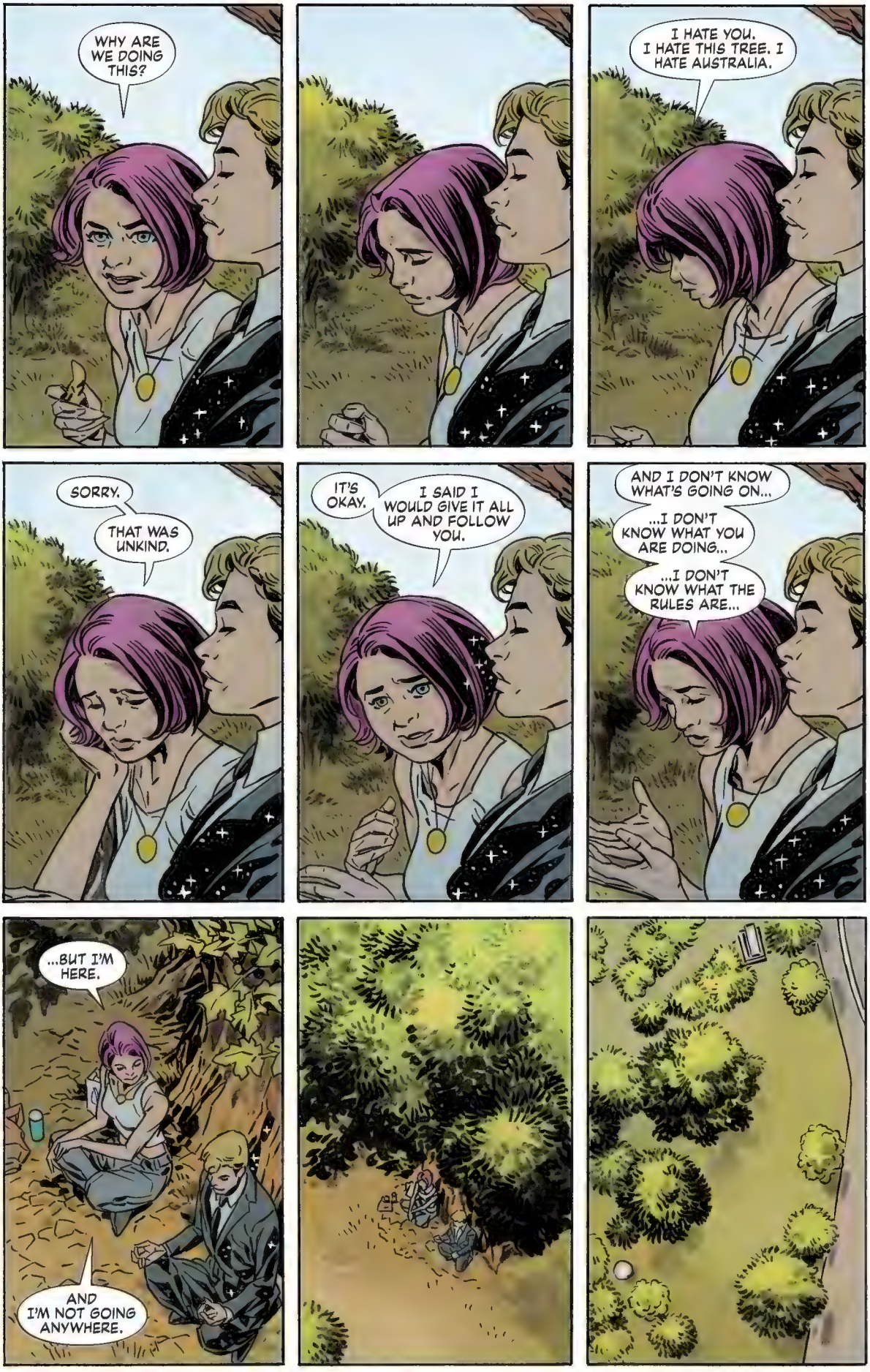

I'M GOING TO BE YOUR ADVERSARY.
NOT NOW. BUT ONE DAY.
I'M GOING TO BE THE OPPOSITION.
IF THIS IS EDEN, I'M GOING TO BE THE SERPENT.
AND YOU'RE GOING TO SAY YES. BECAUSE YOU NEED ME.

11th OF DECEMBER, 2003.
SYDNEY, NEW SOUTH WALES, AUSTRALIA.
LIBRARY
DAMMIT.
THAT WAS A NEW UMBRELLA.
UGH.
STILL RAINING CATS AND DOGS?
LOOK AT MY CLOTHES, MEDIKA.
YOU'LL LIVE. SO WILL YOUR CLOBBER. IT'LL BE DRY OUT LATER.
I GOT YOUR PRINTING DONE.
YOU'RE THE BEST. OKAY IF I LEAVE SOME OF THE LEAFLETS HERE?
NO WORRIES.
A COUPLE MORE THEOLOGY BOOKS FOR YOUR YOUNG MAN CAME TOO.
OH YEAH.
CHEERS.
TRY AGAIN?
EH? OH RIGHT. I MEAN...GOOD ON YA.
MUCH BETTER. WE'LL MAKE AN AUSSIE OUT OF YOU YET.

SO YOU'LL RUN IT?
NEWS LOCAL
SURE. SURE. BUT...
...BUT WHERE AM I SUPPOSED TO LIST IT?
EVENTS? EDUCATION? ANNOUNCEMENTS? FAITH AND SPIRITUALITY?
MAYBE... ALL OF THEM?
THAT'S MORE LIKE IT.
CHIKO ROLL AND VEGGIE DIM SUM TO GO...AND...
YES?
...COULD YOU POP THIS IN THE WINDOW FOR ME?

HEY, JASON. IT'S META.
YEAH... LOVELY TO HEAR YOU TOO.
HOW ARE THINGS?
YEAH. STILL IN AUSTRALIA. THREE WEEKS NOW.
LOOKS LIKE WE'LL BE STAYING PUT FOR A WHILE. I BLAME THE KANGAROOS.
DICKIE LOVES THE KANGAROOS.
WHAT? YEAH. HE'S SITTING UNDER A TREE.
DOING THE WHOLE "I AM UNDER THE BODHI TREE, COME TO ME IF YOU ARE SEEKING ENLIGHTENMENT" THING.
I MEAN, I THINK THAT'S WHAT HE'S DOING. HE TOLD BIG BLUE HE WAS GOING TO BECOME THE DEVIL. THEN HE CLAMMED UP.
NO. HE'S STILL NOT SPEAKING. IT'S BEEN A WEEK SO FAR.
YEAH. IT'S HARD.
BUT IT COMES DOWN TO TRUST, YOU KNOW?
I TRUST THAT HE LOVES ME. EVEN IF HE NEVER SAYS IT.
I KNOW I LOVE HIM.
LAST THING HE SAID WAS, "LET EVERYONE KNOW I'M HERE FOR THEM."
I DON'T KNOW WHY I'M DOING IT, BUT I'M DOING IT ANYWAY.


OKAY. GREAT. YES... YOU TOO... BYE.
JASON SAYS "HI."
HUNGRY YET? I GOT US DIM SUM.
DON'T WORRY. THE BEERS ARE FOR ME.
GOT ALL THE ERRANDS DONE. ADS PLACED. LEAFLETS DROPPED.
"COME TO HIM FOR ENLIGHTENMENT AND YOU WILL UNDERSTAND WHY THIS EVIL WORLD MUST BE REPLACED."
COME TO HIM FOR ENLIGHTENMENT AND YOU WILL UNDERSTAND WHY THIS EVIL WORLD MUST BE REPLACED
IS THAT WHAT YOU WANTED ME TO TELL THEM? DID I GET THAT RIGHT?
I'VE HANDED OUT A THOUSAND FLYERS.
NOBODY'S COMING.


WHY ARE WE DOING THIS?
I HATE YOU. I HATE THIS TREE. I HATE AUSTRALIA.
SORRY.
THAT WAS UNKIND.
IT'S OKAY.
I SAID I WOULD GIVE IT ALL UP AND FOLLOW YOU.
AND I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON...
...I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU ARE DOING...
...I DON'T KNOW WHAT THE RULES ARE...
...BUT I'M HERE.
AND I'M NOT GOING ANYWHERE.

ARE YOU GOING TO JUST KEEP STARING AT HIM FOR DAYS ON END...

...OR ARE YOU PLANNING TO *DO* SOMETHING ABOUT IT?

DO *WHAT,* EXACTLY?

WHAT IF HE HAS A POINT?

IS HE RIGHT TO QUESTION WHAT WE'VE DONE? WHAT I HAVE DONE?

HE'S WALKED AWAY FROM US.

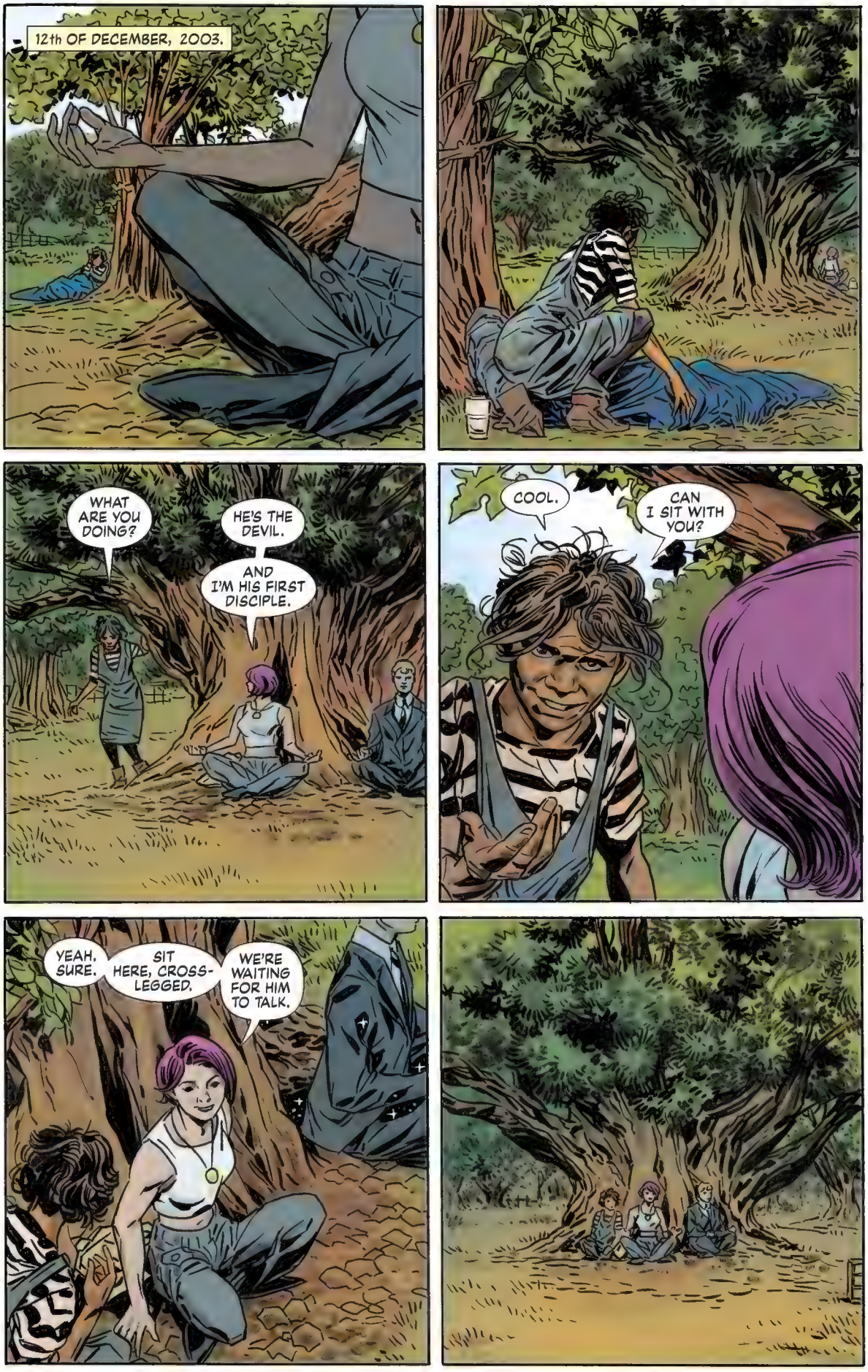
HE'S NO LONGER PART OF THE PANTHEON.

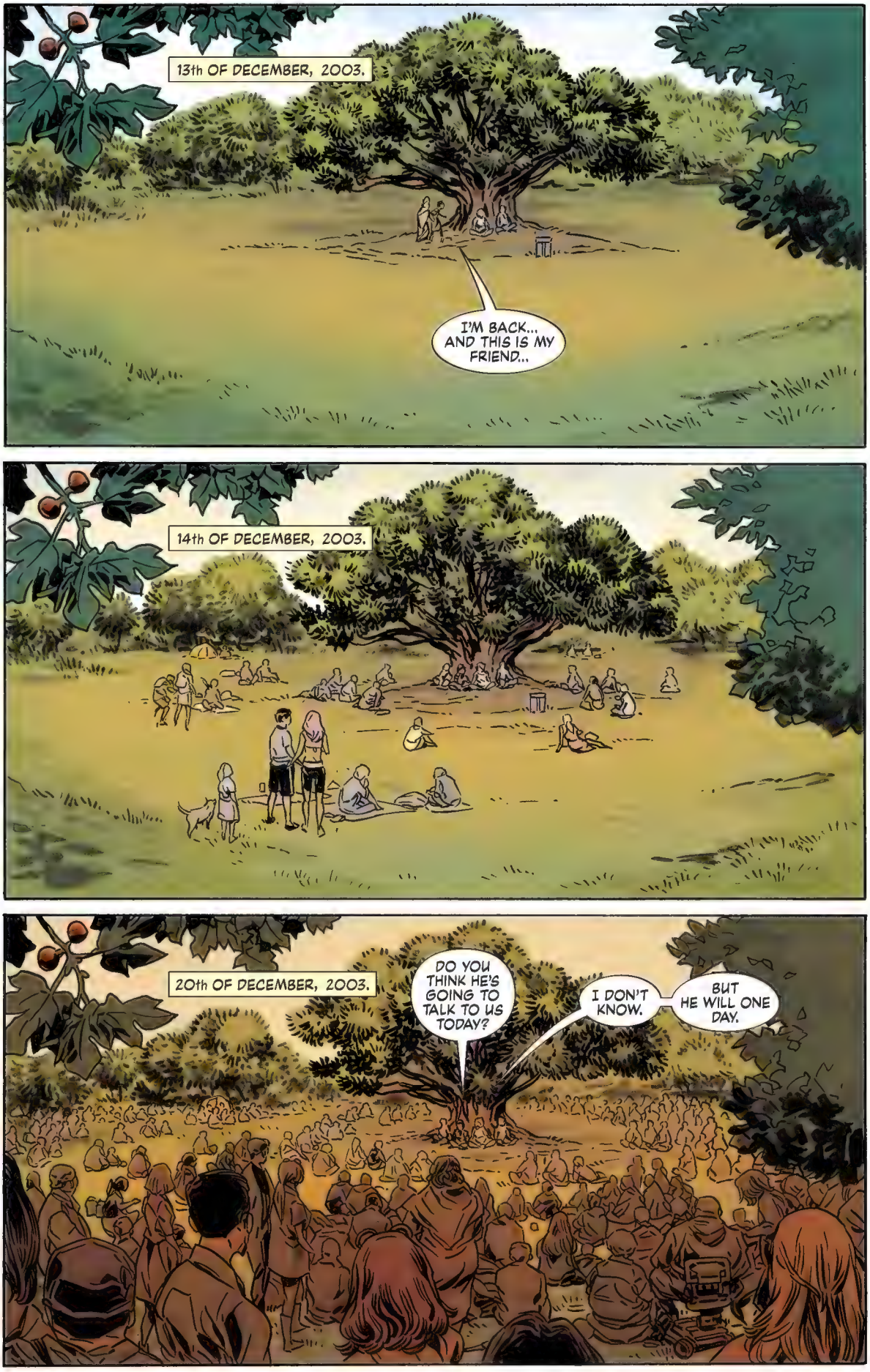
FINE.

WE GIVE HIM AUSTRALIA.

IT DOESN'T MEAN ANYTHING.

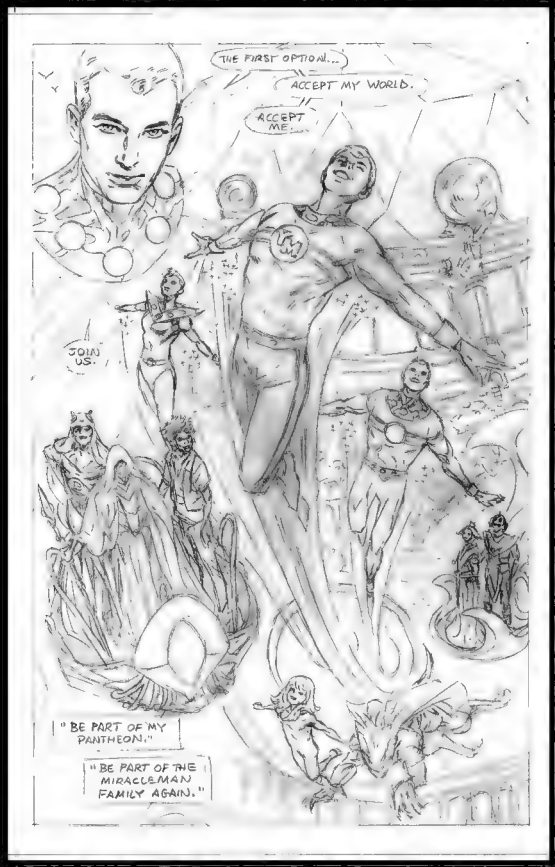
WHAT CAN HE DO SITTING UNDER A TREE?


12th OF DECEMBER, 2003.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
HE'S THE DEVIL.
AND I'M HIS FIRST DISCIPLE.
COOL.
CAN I SIT WITH YOU?
YEAH, SURE.
SIT HERE, CROSS-LEGGED.
WE'RE WAITING FOR HIM TO TALK.

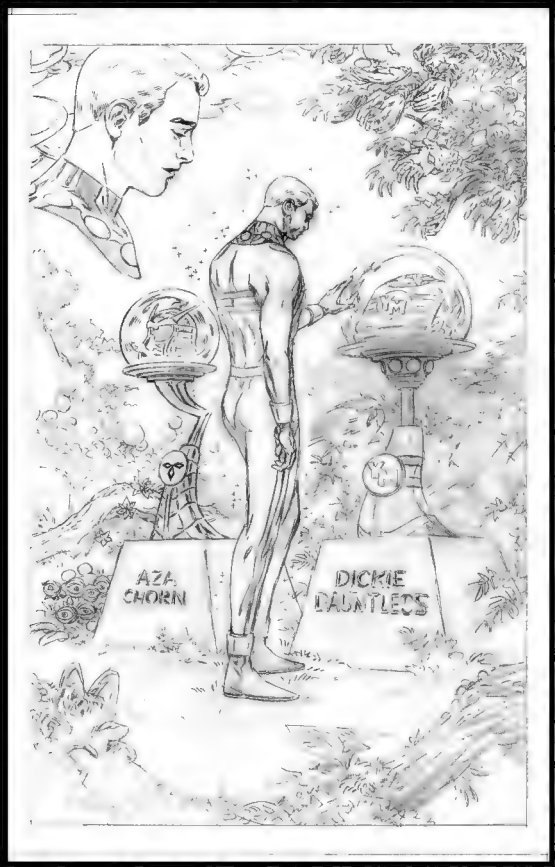

13th OF DECEMBER, 2003.
I'M BACK... AND THIS IS MY FRIEND...
14th OF DECEMBER, 2003.
20th OF DECEMBER, 2003.
DO YOU THINK HE'S GOING TO TALK TO US TODAY?
I DON'T KNOW.
BUT HE WILL ONE DAY.

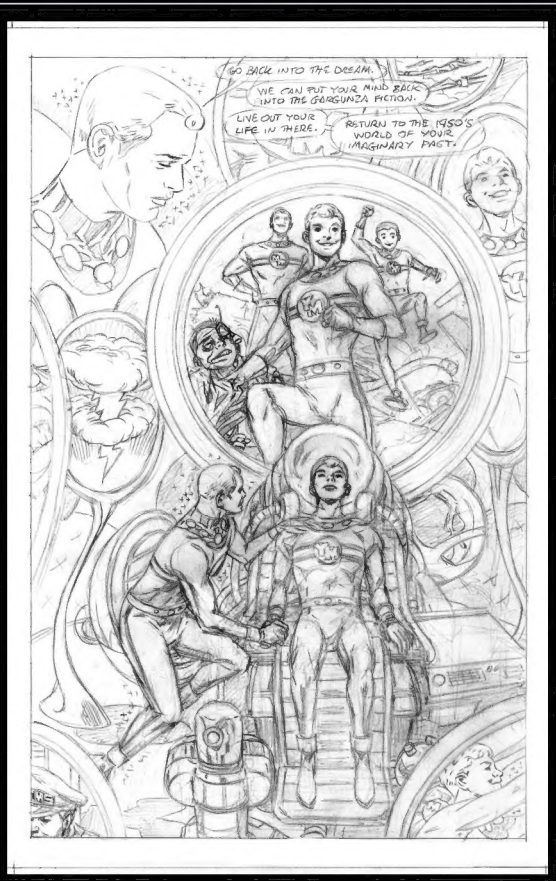
I WONDER WHAT HE IS SEEING, WHAT HE IS THINKING, WHILE HE IS MEDITATING.
YOU CAN'T AVOID ME FOREVER, DICKIE.
I'M HERE.
I'M HERE IN YOUR HEAD.
I'M HERE IN THE DARKNESS.
I'M WAITING.
LET ME OUT.
TO BE CONTINUED IN THE DARK AGE

NEWS


THE FIRST OPTION...
ACCEPT MY WORLD.
ACCEPT ME.
JOIN US.
"BE PART OF MY PANTHEON."
"BE PART OF THE MIRACLEMAN FAMILY AGAIN."

AND THE ONLY ONE SO FAR TO LEAVE.
YOU FOLLOW IN MY FOOTSTEPS
YOU GIVE UP BEING A HERO.


AZA-CHORN
DICKIE DAUNTLESS


GO BACK INTO THE DREAM.
WE CAN PUT YOUR MIND BACK INTO THE GARGUNZA FICTION.
LIVE OUT YOUR LIFE IN THERE.
RETURN TO THE 1950'S WORLD OF YOUR IMAGINARY PAST.

I WILL BE YOUR ADVERSARY.

YOU CAN'T AVOID ME FOREVER
I'M HERE.
I'M HERE IN YOUR HEAD
I'M HERE IN THE WORLD.
LET ME OUT.

MIRACLEMAN

WILL RETURN IN

THE DARK AGE #1

MIRACLEMAN

BOOK SEVEN:
THE SILVER AGE

COVER ART
BY MARK BUCKINGHAM

RATED **MATURE**